

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Louisiana Emergency Response Commission (LERC)**

<b>Meeting Title</b>	Louisiana Emergency Response Commission Meeting
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	May 1, 2017
<b>Where</b>	Golden Nugget Hotel Memorial Room 2550 Golden Nugget Blvd. Lake Charles, LA 70601
<b>Start Time</b>	1:03 p.m.

1. Lt. Col. David Staton called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.
2. Tara Guidry, LSP/Right-to-Know Unit, called roll as follows:

Lt. Col. David Staton, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT  
Bryan Riche, Designee for Department of Environmental Quality, PRESENT  
Dr. Brent Robbins, Designee for Department of Agriculture and Forestry, PRESENT  
William Rachal, Designee for the Governor's Office of Homeland Security, PRESENT  
Command Technician (CT) Taylor Moss, Department of Public Safety, PRESENT  
James "Jim" Polk, Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Association, PRESENT  
Cecil "Keith" Bennett, Carroll L. Herring Fire and Emergency Training Institute, PRESENT  
Marty Chabert, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinators Office, NOT PRESENT  
Edward Flynn, Louisiana Chemical Association, NOT PRESENT  
Chief Bobby Black, NOT PRESENT  
Joel "Joey" Dugas, Dow Chemical, PRESENT  
Jennifer Reynolds, Webster Parish Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT  
Travis Perrilloux, St. John the Baptist Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness, PRESENT  
Chief Guy Bonin, Iberia Parish Fire District, NOT PRESENT  
Obed "Obie" Cambre, Jr., ExxonMobil, NOT PRESENT  
Capt. Chris Rushing, Baton Rouge Police Department, PRESENT  
Chris Guilbeaux, Governor's Office of Homeland Security, NOT PRESENT  
Senator Mike Walsworth, NOT PRESENT  
Senator Mack "Bodi" White, NOT PRESENT

The records reflect that the following visitors were present:

Ian Snellgrove, Director, Bossier Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

The records also reflect that the following LSP/Emergency Services Unit personnel were present:

Gene Dunegan

Tara Guidry

Alisa Monroe

Paul Schexnayder, Louisiana State Police Legal Counsel

3. Lt. Col. Staton asked members to review their contact information and to advise of any changes.

4. Lt. Col. Staton asked the commission to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2017 LERC meeting. **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

## 5. Committee Reports:

Long Range Planning: There was no report submitted by the Long Range Planning Committee.

Emergency Plans Review: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Will Rachal for the report from the Emergency Plans Review Committee. Since the previous meeting, the committee has reviewed plans from the following parishes: Allen, Beauregard, Catahoula, Cameron, and Iberia. Four of the five parishes met the necessary requirements. Beauregard's Annex H was not evaluated but will be done during the next quarter. Also during the next quarter, the committee will review plans for Claiborne, Concordia, Rapides, and Red River Parishes

Training and Resources: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Keith Bennett for the report from the Training and Resources Committee. Mr. Bennett stated that during the first quarter, they have conducted 82 classes with over 1400 students trained in hazmat and leadership-style classes. Although the classes have been smaller recently, there have been more of them. Command Technician Taylor Moss asked where the majority of students for the awareness classes were from. Mr. Bennett replied that the students were mostly from fire departments. Industries will mainly send students to the 40-hour technician classes.

Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Service: Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Mr. Jim Polk for the report from the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Service Committee. Mr. Polk said that next week, he will send out an email on behalf of LERC to all of the LEPC chairs to advise them of resources that may be helpful. Mr. Polk added that he would like to send emails quarterly to each chair to encourage them and to pass on information and tools to help them do their jobs. The emails would make the chairs aware of existing resources that they may not know about, many of which are available online.

Public Information – Lt. Col. Staton passed the floor to Command Technician Taylor Moss for the report from the Public Information Committee. CT Moss said that he has reached out both to the Sheriffs' Association and the Chiefs of Police. The Chiefs of Police have offered a 30-minute block in their upcoming October meeting in Baton Rouge for a presentation to provide an overview of the LERC. CT Moss is waiting to hear back from the Sheriffs' Association about a possible July meeting where a similar presentation about LERC can be made.

Emergency Notification – There was no report submitted by the Emergency Notification Committee.

## 6. Old Business

The first item of old business concerned an update on the five EPA Region 6 LEPC Workshops scheduled for Louisiana this year. Mr. Gene Dunegan stated that Steve Mason from the EPA sent out an email that the workshops had been cancelled due to budgetary constraints. The agency

hopes to hold workshops next year. Emails have been sent to LEPCs and industries to advise them of the cancellation.

The second item of old business concerned regulatory reform. Mr. Gene Dunegan stated that an executive order from the current administration placed a hold on forthcoming federal rules and regulations, including the Risk Management Plan mentioned in previous meetings, which has now been delayed until February 2019. Mr. Dunegan added that this plan was going to be very demanding on both LEPCs and industry. CT Moss asked Mr. Joey Dugas of Dow Chemical for his opinion on industry's take on the Risk Management Plan. Mr. Dugas responded that most of the plan's elements were already being done by industry, and that most of the parishes with major industries already had elements of the plan in place. Mr. Dugas added that recent hazmat events outside of Louisiana that were not handled well by other LEPCs may have prompted the additional federal regulations.

## **7. New Business**

The first item of new business concerned LEPC membership updates for 43 parishes. The parishes sending membership updates were Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Bienville, Bossier, Caldwell, Cameron, Catahoula, Concordia, De Soto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, Evangeline, Franklin, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafourche, LaSalle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Orleans, Ouachita, Plaquemines, Rapides, Red River, Richland, St. Bernard, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tensas, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Baton Rouge, West Carroll, and Winn. **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to approve the updates. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition.

The next item of new business concerned the Louisiana Emergency Planning Association workshop agenda. Mr. Jim Polk hoped that members of the commission would be able to attend some of the workshops at the ongoing conference.

The third item of new business was an announcement from Capt. Chris Rushing, who is retiring from the Baton Rouge police force after 32 years of service and who is attending his final LERC meeting. Capt. Rushing will nominate Scotty Bowman with the Baton Rouge Police bomb squad as his replacement. Lt. Col. Staton thanked Capt. Rushing for his dedication and the expertise he brought to LERC over the years. Capt. Rushing will submit a letter of resignation from the committee, and will also submit a letter of recommendation for Mr. Bowman.

8. Lt. Col. Staton asked if there were any questions or announcements from the audience. There were no questions or announcements presented.

Lt. Col. Staton gave the floor to Mr. Gene Dunegan to discuss scheduling of the LERC's next quarterly meeting which normally occurs on the 2nd Wednesday of the 3rd month of the quarter. The next LERC meeting date would be on Monday, September 13th, 2017, at 10:00 AM, at the Louisiana State Police Headquarters building in Baton Rouge.

9. **A MOTION** was made by Mr. Jim Polk to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.